

Philips Display Components

EPA ID Number: NYD002246015

Other (Former) Names of Site

GTE, Landsman Development Corporation, Seneca County Industrial Development Agency

Site Description

The facility occupies approximately 85 acres of land on Johnston Street in Seneca Falls, New York. The facility is bordered by Van Cleef Lake and the Seneca River/Barge Canal to the south, undeveloped and agricultural areas to the north and east, and a residential area to the west.

The original facility buildings were constructed by Rumsey Pump. In 1948, Sylvania purchased the plant, expanded the facilities and began the manufacture of black and white television tubes. In 1960, the facility was sold to GTE. The manufacture of color television tubes began in 1962. Philips Display Components Company acquired the facility in 1981, and production ceased in 1986. Philips sold the facility to the Landsman Development Corporation with full environmental indemnity on August 31, 1989. Currently, the Seneca County Industrial Development Agency holds the title to the property, after their purchase in 1991. The facility is leased to a private firm.

Regulatory Site Responsibility and Legal Instrument

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is responsible for regulatory oversight for site remediation under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action program. No Consent Order was signed. Corrective Action activity is being conducted under Interim Status requirements.

Permit Status

The operating units at this facility have been closed and a permit is not required. The hazardous waste management units (SWMUs) operated by Philips Displays included a surface impoundment and a container storage area. The surface impoundment was closed in 1993 and the container storage area was closed in 1995. However, state and federal laws require that Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action be conducted at this former RCRA Interim Status facility.

Potential Threats and Contaminants

During previous investigations, elevated levels of metals, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds were discovered to have contaminated on-site soils and groundwater.

The overburden aquifer shows elevated concentrations of hazardous constituents. It does not appear to be in direct hydraulic connection with the bedrock aquifer, which has shown minimal concentrations of contaminants, with the exception of the “bluff area” (area between the facility and the surface water body). The overburden flow direction is to the southeast, and the bedrock aquifer flow direction is to the south.

Cleanup Approach and Progress

GTE conducted a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) to fully characterize ten areas of concern at the site, and to determine the vertical and horizontal extent of contaminants. The RFI was conducted in three (3) Phases between 1996 and 2002:

- As part of the Phase I RFI investigation, several monitoring wells were installed to characterize the groundwater and determine the groundwater flow direction in the overburden aquifer.
- A Phase II RFI report was approved in 2000 that addressed soil contamination in a nearby residential area (the report concluded there was no health threat posed by the site).
- A Phase III RFI report, which included sampling of indoor air, bedrock wells and sewer-pipes, was approved in 2003.

Two thousand three hundred (2,300) tons of contaminated soils were removed and disposed of between the early 1980s and 1996.

A side-wide groundwater monitoring program is in place, to track changes in the contaminant plume area, and semiannual sampling reports are issued in the Spring and Fall of each year. Analytical results reported in 2001 indicate that benzene, toluene ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX) were present in both the overburden aquifer monitoring wells and background wells side-wide at levels that are above New York State (NYS) Class GA Standards. However, data from 1999 to 2003 from both the overburden and bedrock aquifers show that the contaminant plume has not migrated beyond the property boundary.

A soil vapor intrusion investigation work plan was submitted in May 2003 as part of the side-wide Corrective Action activities to address potential indoor air and subsurface soil gas contamination in 13 buildings. This work plan was approved in June 2003, and we anticipate a vapor intrusion sampling report will be submitted in December 2003. Once this report is approved, a positive Current Human Exposures Under Control determination can be made by 2005.

A work plan was submitted but has not yet been approved, to evaluate and address or evaluate inorganic contaminants, particularly cadmium, in sediment at the discharge points of the historic out falls along the Van Cleef Lake, Cayuga River, and Seneca Canal. Finally, a Corrective Measures Study Work Plan is currently pending until all on-site sources have been identified and removed.

Site Repository

Copies of supporting technical documents and correspondence cited in this site fact sheet are available for public review at:

NYSDEC - Region 8
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414-9519
Contact Person: Dixon Rollins
Telephone (716) 226-2466

NYSDEC - Albany
Bureau of Hazardous Waste Facilities
Division of Solid & Hazardous Materials
625 Broadway - Room 460
Albany, NY 12233-7252
Contact Person: Stephen Condon
Telephone (518) 402-8594

USEPA Region 2
RCRA Records Center
290 Broadway, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866